Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ORIGIN EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66651

DRAFTED BY:EUR/RPM/KAKURZE APPROVED BY:EUR/RPM:KAKURZE

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R 071545Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO

INFO USNMR SHAPE

USDELMC

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 026968

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 026968 ACTION ROME INFO SECDEF CNO USCINCEUR CINCUSNAVEUR USDOCOSOUTH COMSIXTHFLT CINCLANTFLT NAVSUPPACT 06 FEB

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MARR, IT

SUBJECT: HOMEPORTING DESTROYER TENDER IN NAPLES

1. THE U.S. NAVY HAS DETERMINED THAT THE HOMEPORTING OF A DESTROYER TENDER IN NAPLES DEPRIVES THESIXTH FLEET OF THE FLEXIBILITY NEEDED TORENDER TIMELY REQUIRED TENDER SERVICES TO UNITS OPERATING THROUGHOUT THE MEDITERRANEAN. THEREFORE, THE U.S. NAVY PLANS TO REPLACE THE USS PIEDMONT (AD-17) ABOUT JULY 1976 WITH TENDERS ROTATING ABOUT EVERY SIX MONTHS FROM THE U.S.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO DELIVER THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO THE APPROPRIATE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES. IN PRESENTING THE LETTER, THE EMBASSY SHOULD NOTE THAT THE CHANGEIN THE HOMEPORTING PROCEDURE IS BASED CONFIDENTIAL

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SOLELY ON JUDGMENTS RELATED TO OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND

ON DECISIONS TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO LONG-TERM PLANNING.

3. QUOTE. THE UNITED STATES NAVY HAS DETERMINED THAT IT CAN BETTER CARRY OUT NATO RESPONSIBILITIES BY TERMINATING THE HOMEPORTING OF A DESTROYER TENDER IN NAPLES ABOUT JULY 1976 AND RETURNING TO THE CONCEPT OF ROTATING TENDERS TO THE SIXTH FLEET FROM THE UNITED STATES. SUCH DEPLOYED TENDERS CAN MORE READILY PROVIDE TIMELY SERVICES TO THE FLEET NOT ONLY AT NAPLES BUT WHEREVER ELSE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN THEIR SERVICES MAY BE REQUIRED. WITH THE TERMINATION OF HOMEPORTING, ABOUT 400 DEPENDENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE HOMEPORTED TENDER WILL BE MOVING OUT OF THE NAPLES AREA. UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: n/a Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 07 FEB 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE026968

Document Number: 1975STATE026968
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/RPM/KAKURZE

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: RR Errors: N/A

Film Number: n/a

From: SECSTATE WASHDC Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750260/aaaacbyc.tel Line Count: 74

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE

Office: ORIGIN EUR Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a

Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: KelleyW0

Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: Review Date: 04 JUN 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <20 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: HOMEPORTING DESTROYER TENDER IN NAPLES

TAGS: MARR, IT

To: NATO USNMR SHAPE MC

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006